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MELISSA SMITH
(SENDER'S PRINTED NAME)

Melissa Smith
(SIGNATURE)

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Applicants: Gene Ma and Andrew Gutman

Title: VOICE FRAME NETWORK GATEKEEPER-TO-INTELLIGENT PERIPHERAL INTERFACE METHOD AND APPARATUS

Enclosures:

1. Specification (pages 1-15); claims (pages 16-19); abstract (page 20)
2. FOUR sheets of formal drawings
3. Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (copy)
4. Assignment with cover sheet
5. Return postcard

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CLAIMS AS FILED				
For	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee \$690.00
Total Claims	19-20	0	x \$18.00 =	\$0.00
Independent Claims	5-3	2	x \$78.00 =	\$156.00
Multiple Dependent Claim Fee			x \$260.00 =	\$0.00
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Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

James G. Stewart
Registration No. 32,496

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**VOICE FRAME NETWORK GATEKEEPER-TO-INTELLIGENT
PERIPHERAL INTERFACE METHOD AND APPARATUS**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to voice frame network gatekeepers and intelligent peripherals such as interactive voice response units (IVRs), and more particularly it concerns method and apparatus for interfacing gatekeepers to intelligent peripherals via the ITU H.323 and H.450 standards.

10 Previously, intelligent peripherals have been connected to gatekeepers within the Internet using proprietary interfaces. One such proprietary interface is (Bellcore) GR-1129-CORE, which can be used to connect an intelligent peripheral such as an IVR into an advanced intelligent network (AIN). The AIN includes a switch service point (SSP) with call-processing software and voice channel control and a service control point (SCP) with data-based (e.g. 800 or LNP) information required by the SSP to route a
15 call. The intelligent peripheral is a special resource that provides additional functionality, e.g. IVR, to the SSP that may be required by the SCP. When the SSP receives a GR-1129-CORE message from the SCP containing an operation value, e.g. a '0' (play announcement), '1' (play announcement and collect digits) or '4' (flex parameter block), it passes the content to the intelligent peripheral through ISDN or Q.931. When
20 the intelligent peripheral, e.g. an IVR, starts the specified function, it establishes a voice channel to the user through the SSP. Because the SSP controls the voice channel, it can provide such services as call transfer after the IVR transaction is finished.

 Those of skill in the art will appreciate that the referenced ITU and related standards are well known, evolving standards. Accordingly, reference herein to these
25 standards will be understood to mean the standards as they existed at the time of the earliest effective filing date of the present application, and as they have evolved to date, and as they continue to evolve over the term of any patent that issues herefrom. Applicants note that an instructive earlier version of the ITU H.450.1 standard is described in *Generic functional protocol for the support of supplementary services in*
30 *H.323*, date unknown; that the GR-1129-CORE standard is described in *AINGR: Switch--Intelligent Peripheral Interface (IPI)*, Revision 1, October, 1998 and *AINGR: Switch--Service Control Point (SCP)/Adjunct Interface*, September 1997; that the ITU-T H.225.0, ITU-T H.450.2 and ITU-T Q.931 standards are described in *Call Signaling*

Protocols and Media Stream Packetization for Packet Based Multimedia Communications Systems, February 1998, *Call Transfer Supplementary Service for H.323I*, September 1997 and *ISDN User-Network Interface Layer 3 Specification for Basic Call Control*, March 1993, respectively.

5 No intelligent peripheral interface has been proposed heretofore that is compatible with the ITU-T H.323 or related H.225, H.245, H.450 and Q.931 standards, and the GR-1129-CORE standard.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 The invention involves telecommunications apparatus between a voice frame network gatekeeper and intelligent peripheral. One such exemplary intelligent peripheral is the interactive voice response unit (IVR) described and illustrated herein. Other intelligent peripherals may use the invented interface, however, within the spirit and scope of the invention.

15 The telecommunications apparatus includes a voice frame network connection for coupling a gatekeeper to an intelligent peripheral; a protocol over the connection that provides supplemental services messaging between the gatekeeper and the intelligent peripheral, the protocol conveying a request from the gatekeeper to the intelligent peripheral and a response from the intelligent peripheral to the gatekeeper; and a
20 command structure embedded in such request/response protocol, the command structure including a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the gatekeeper is responsive. The interfacing method includes configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under International H.450 standard; configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International H.450 standard; first conveying
25 requests from the gatekeeper to the intelligent peripheral over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol; and second conveying responses to the requests from the intelligent peripheral to the gatekeeper over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol. The first conveying includes invoking a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the intelligent peripheral is responsive to
30 route a given call to a different telephone line the number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence. Preferably, the protocol and the command structure comply with International H.323 standard.

 The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will

become more readily apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment that proceeds with reference to the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a system block diagram illustrating a voice frame network with a gatekeeper and an intelligent peripheral interfaced in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a schematic block diagram of the H.323 gatekeeper, intelligent peripheral and gateway architecture in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 3 is a more detailed schematic diagram of the gatekeeper-to-intelligent peripheral interface in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a flowchart illustrating the interface method in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 1 is a system block diagram of a network 10, i.e. the Internet, with a voice frame network, e.g. an H.323 network, 12 forming a part thereof. A gatekeeper 14 and one or more intelligent peripherals, e.g. interactive voice response units (IVRs), 16a, 16b may be seen to represent two or more nodes within voice frame network 12. Those of skill in the art will appreciate that typically there may be many such voice frame networks such as voice frame network 12 connected to the Internet. Those of skill in the art also will appreciate that typically there may be many such connected gatekeepers and intelligent peripherals such as gatekeeper 14 and IVR 16a.

A public switched telephone network (PSTN) 18 may connect voice traffic from one or more telephones 20 to H.323 network 12 via one or more H.323 gateways (GWs) 22a, 22b, 22c. A customer database 24 is connected to H.323 network 12 to provide needed preferences such as scripts, announcements or other recordings for play out, as will be described. Internet protocol (IP) phones 26 or other H.323 devices may also be connected to H.323 network 12, as shown.

The invented gatekeeper-to-intelligent peripheral interface is indicated generally at 28. Interface 28 will be understood to be implemented preferably in software or firmware, but it may be implemented, within the spirit and scope of the invention, in

hardware. Interface 28 will be understood to span and interconnect--as well as define the behavioral relationship between--gatekeeper 14 and intelligent peripheral 16. Interface 28 accordingly may be implemented as compatible and communicative software modules residing in gatekeeper 14 and IVR 16a, preferably integrated with the software that controls the conventional functions of the gatekeeper and the intelligent peripheral.

Fig. 2 shows H.323 GW 22a terminating the public switched telephone network (PSTN) signaling channel and voice channel and originating H.323 signaling channels 12a, 12b and an RTP/RTCP (voice) stream. Because H.323 gatekeeper 14 does not directly control the voice channel, it is provided with auxiliary means to obtain indirect control of the voice channel via interface 28 to IVR 16a. Importantly, such auxiliary means are compatible with the existing GR-1129-CORE-based standards, and, by extension thereof but without modification, the interface provides for the needed call transfer and other features under the International H.323/H.225./H.245/H.450 standards.

Accordingly, the invented H.323 gatekeeper-intelligent peripheral interface 28 provides full and extensible functionality and compatibility with old and new standards and protocols.

Fig. 3 shows interface apparatus 28 in the form of a more detailed schematic diagram. Gatekeeper 14 may be seen to be interfaced to IVR 16a via interface 28 by inclusion preferably of memory-resident software instructions executed by a processor that forms a part of the gatekeeper and intelligent peripheral. In other words, additional code may readily be installed in the existing base of gatekeepers and intelligent peripherals to render them compatible with the International H.323 standard. The invented apparatus in a preferred embodiment of the invention thus preferably includes a voice frame network connection 12c for coupling gatekeeper 14 to IVR 16a. It further includes protocols (RAS, H.225 + H.450.1 + GR-1129-CORE) over the connection that provides supplemental services messaging between the gatekeeper and the intelligent peripheral, the protocol conveying a REQUEST from the gatekeeper to the intelligent peripheral and a RESPONSE from the intelligent peripheral to the gatekeeper. Finally, it includes a command structure (to be described below) embedded in such request/response protocol, the command structure including a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the gatekeeper is responsive.

Interface apparatus 28 in another preferred form may be thought of as

coordinating a voice frame network gatekeeper and an intelligent peripheral.

Preferably, in this form, interface apparatus 28 includes an invocation mechanism 30 within gatekeeper 14 for setting a defined task to IVR 16a via in-band signaling.

Interface apparatus 28 further includes a performance mechanism 32 within the intelligent peripheral responsive to the invocation mechanism for performing the defined task. Importantly, the invocation mechanism and the performance mechanism comply with International H.323, H.225 and H.450.x standards (where x indicates successive versions).

Fig. 4 illustrates the invented gatekeeper-to-intelligent peripheral interfacing method preferably is implemented in accordance with the invention. At 100, gatekeeper 14 is configured as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under the H.323 and H.450.x standards. At 102, IVR 16a is configured as an Intelligent Peripheral under the same standard. At 104, requests are conveyed from gatekeeper 14 to IVR 16a over voice frame network 12 in accordance with a defined protocol, e.g. the protocol described above or a suitable alternative. At 106, responses to the requests are conveyed from IVR 16a to gatekeeper 14 over voice frame network 12 in accordance also with a defined protocol, as described and illustrated herein. For example, IVR 16a may return any of the standard operation return result, return error or reject transaction responses under International standard H.450.x.

Those of skill in the art will appreciate that Bellcore GR-1129-CORE for AIN 0.1 provides an interface between an AIN SSP and an AIN intelligent peripheral. It has following three characteristic types of information exchange on an ISDN interface between SSP and an intelligent peripheral: 1) The SCP requiring the intelligent peripheral to exchange information with a user, in which the SSP forwards data from the SCP to an intelligent peripheral and sets up an in-band connection between the user and the intelligent peripheral; 2) The SSP supporting ISDN BRI and PRI between an intelligent peripheral and an SSP for signaling and transport for call originations and call terminations; 3) The SSP providing protocol inter-working from an intelligent peripheral on ISDN BRI and PRI to a SCP for non-call associated signaling.

The interface between the GK and the H.323 intelligent peripheral uses the H.450.1 APDU in the H.225.0 call signaling messages and follows the GR-1129-CORE signaling scheme originally for interface between the SSP and an ISDN-connected intelligent peripheral. The high level architecture of this interface is showed in Fig. 2.

The GK can be considered an SSP that provides specified SCP services and the H.323 IVR can be considered an intelligent peripheral.

TABLE 1 below summarizes the GR-1129-CORE defined signaling supported by an SSP used for the GK in accordance with invention.

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TABLE 1

SSP supported signaling providing for	SSP supported signaling used by GK
Setting up a connection between a user and an intelligent peripheral, and passing information between a service on SCP and the intelligent peripheral related to that connection	A trigger is encountered by the GK, and related service is invoked to process the call. The service can be resident on the GK or on a SCP. The service requires GK to setup a connection between user and the H.323 intelligent peripheral to exchange information between them related to the call
Passing non-call associated data between the service on SCP and an ISDN-connected device	Passing non-call associated data, such as authentication information, password or Personal Identification Number (PIN), etc., between the service on GK or SCP and the H.323 intelligent peripheral
Allowing call origination and call termination over the intelligent peripheral	Allowing call terminating at the H.323 intelligent peripheral, such as playing an announcement before release the call and the H.323 intelligent peripheral reports the result to GK

In order to use GR-1129 for interface between GK and the H.323 intelligent peripheral, the GR-1129-CORE message Send_To_Resource (STR) can be generated by any services that request the intelligent peripheral resource, either AIN services on SCP or H.323 services on GK. The operation of the STR message is contained in an H.450 Application Protocol Data Unit (APDU) carried in the H.225.0 FACILITY or SETUP message and response is returned in a non-standard data carried in the H.225.0 FACILITY or RELease COMplete message. Other H.225.0 call signaling messages are not allowed to carry a STR operation.

The above-referenced protocol and command structure now will be described. Preferably, conveying step 104 includes invoking a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the intelligent peripheral is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line (extended value '100'), the number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence (via flex-parameter-block and/or database 24). More preferably, conveying step 104 further includes invoking

play-recorded-audio (value '0') and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input (value '1') sequences to which IVR 16a is responsive. Most preferably, conveying step 104 further includes invoking flex-parameter-block (value '4'), play-recorded-audio-and-terminate-call (extended value '101') and play-recorded-audio-using-specified-script (extended value '102') sequences to which IVR 16a is responsive. Those of skill in the art will appreciate that, in accordance with the invention, the protocol and embedded command are realized by in-band signaling, between the gatekeeper and the intelligent peripheral, i.e. signaling or messaging across network connection 12c.

TABLES 2 through 5 immediately below summarize STR signaling between GK 14 and IVR 16a, in accordance with the invention by the use of H.450.1 APDU, which is compatible nevertheless compatible with both ITU H.323 and GR-1129-CORE. TABLES 2-5 are believed to be self-explanatory to those of ordinary skill in the art.

TABLE 2: GK USES FACILITY MESSAGE WHEN A SUBSEQUENCE COMPONENT IS SENT TO H.323 IVR FOR ACTIVE STR-CONNECTION

Information Element	Value	Inclusion Condition
Protocol discriminator	Q.931	Mandatory
Call reference (CR)	CR value = value in SETUP message	Mandatory
Message type	FACILITY	Mandatory
User-to-User		Mandatory
H.450.1 APDU	Invoke component (See Section 5.2.3 of GR-2823-CORE.)	Mandatory for IVR interface

Direction: GK → IVR

TABLE 3: H.323 IVR USES FACILITY MESSAGE FOR SUBSEQUENCE RESULT EXCHANGE WITH GK FOR ACTIVE STR-CONNECTION

Information Element	Value	Inclusion Condition
Protocol discriminator	Q.931	Mandatory
Call reference (CR)	CR value = value in SETUP message	Mandatory
Message type	FACILITY	Mandatory
User-to-User		Mandatory
H.450.1 APDU	Return Result, Return Error, or Reject component (See Section 5.2.3 of GR-2823-CORE.)	Mandatory for IVR interface

Direction: IVR → GK

Figure 1 displays 12 histograms showing the distribution of the number of non-zero elements in the vector x for different values of n (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120). The x-axis represents the number of non-zero elements (x), and the y-axis represents the count. As n increases, the distribution becomes more concentrated around zero, indicating that the vector x is becoming sparser.

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TABLE 5: GK USES SETUP MESSAGE TO ESTABLISH STR-CONNECTION TO H.323 IVR AND REQUEST “sendToResource” OPERATION

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If the SETUP message is not acceptable (e.g., the protocol errors and invalid Invoke component), the H.323 intelligent peripheral responds with a RElease COMplete message that contains a Return Result, Return Error, or Reject component.

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application decides to terminate the IVR service due to some error condition. The GK expects the H.323 intelligent peripheral to send a RELease COMplete message when the H.323 intelligent peripheral receives the "cancelResource" operation in a FACILITY message.

- 5 The invoker (GK) uses the return result component described below in TABLE 6 to request an operation from the performer (intelligent peripheral, e.g. IVR).

TABLE 6: INVOKE COMPONENT

Data Element	Value	Inclusion Condition
Component type	Invoke as defined in Section 5.4.1 of GR-2823-CORE for Primary Rate Interface (PRI)	Mandatory
Invoke Identifier	Invoke identifier value = any value not in use. Invoke identifier is defined in Section 5.4.2 of GR-2823-CORE for PRI	Mandatory
Operation value	Use Operation value tag and length for object identifier as defined in Section 5.4.5 of GR-2823-CORE for PRI.	Mandatory
Argument(s)	The possible arguments for "sendToResource" operation are: Resource Type, strParameterBlock and DisplayText. There is no argument for "cancelResource" operation.	Conditional

Direction: GK → IVR

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The IVR uses the return result component described below in TABLE 7 to return results and to indicate that the operation was performed successfully.

TABLE 7: RETURN RESULT COMPONENT

Data element	Value	Inclusion Condition
Component type	Return Result as defined in Section 5.4.1 of GR-2823-CORE for PRI.	Mandatory
Invoke Identifier	Invoke identifier value = value in Invoke component for this component exchange.	Mandatory
Sequence	Sequence is defined in Section 5.4.6 of GR-2823-CORE for PRI.	Conditional (included if any results are returned)
Operation value	Use Operation value tag and length for object identifier as defined in Section 5.4.5 of GR-2823-CORE for PRI.	Conditional (included if any results are returned)
Results	The possible results for "sendToResource" operation are: ReturnBlock	Conditional

- 15 Direction: IVR → GK

The GK and the intelligent peripheral use the return error component described

with a preferred embodiment of the invention, four components are used to request and respond to an operation between the GK and the intelligent peripheral. An operation is defined by its operation value and the arguments associated with the operation.

5 The four components tabulated above in TABLES 6 through 9 will be described in more detail below.

The GK will use an invoke component to begin a new component exchange with the intelligent peripheral. In accordance with invented interface 28, the intelligent peripheral will not initiate a new component exchange with the GK. The invoke component contains a parameter to identify an operation and the arguments needed by the performer to perform the requested operation.

If the requested operation is performed successfully, the intelligent peripheral will send a return result component in response to the invoke component from the GK (the invoker). The return result component may contain some parameters to be returned to the invoker.

15 The intelligent peripheral will send a return error component to the GK in response to the invoke component if the requested operation cannot be performed. The return error component contains a specific error cause for each situation that indicates the reason for failure. Those of skill in the art will appreciate that, within the spirit and scope of the invention, it may contain other or additional parameters.

20 A Reject component will be sent by the intelligent peripheral to reject a received Invoke component. The components may be rejected for such reasons as protocol violations or unrecognized components or parameters. The reject component preferably contains a parameter that indicates the reason for rejection.

25 The interface 28 command structure is briefly summarized below in TABLE 10.

TABLE 10: REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR RESOURCE TYPE

ResourceType	StrParameterBlock	Rerouting Number	Comments
0: PlayAnnouncement	AnnouncementBlock	N/A	
1: PlayAnnouncement and Collect Digits	AnnouncementDigit Block	N/A	
100: Perform CT	N/A	AlianAddress	Intelligent peripheral will execute the H.450.2 CT to the endpoint specified by the ReroutingNumber
101: Play Announcement and Terminate the Call	AnnouncementBlock	N/A	Intelligent peripheral terminates the call after announcement is played
102: Play Announcement with Specified Script	FlexParameterBlock (in which the name of the script is given)	N/A	The script is executed by the H.323 intelligent peripheral

The GK sends an invoke component that contains an operation

- 5 “sendToResource” in a SETUP message to the intelligent peripheral. The intelligent peripheral responds with appropriate H.225.0 call signaling messages, such as CALL PROCEEDing, ALTERing, or CONNect, and accepts the STR-connection. The intelligent peripheral either sends a return result component (contained in H.450.1 APDU of the RELease COMplete message) if the operation is performed successfully, or a return error component (contained in the non-standard data of the RELease
- 10 COMplete message) if the operation cannot be performed. In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the intelligent peripheral does not clear the STR-connection when it has taken the final action on the requested operation.

If the intelligent peripheral is unable to process the “sendToResource” operation contained in the SETUP message, it takes one of the following actions:

- 15 The intelligent peripheral clears the STR-connection and rejects the SETUP message by sending a RELease COMplete message contains a reject component. The intelligent peripheral may reject for such reasons as protocol violations or unrecognized components. Preferably, the reject component contains a parameter that indicates the reason for rejection.

- 20 Preferably, the intelligent peripheral accepts the STR-connection and then sends a FACILITY message if it does not recognize the “sendToResource” operation. The intelligent peripheral rejects for such reasons as unrecognized operations. The reject

component preferably contains a parameter that indicates the reason for rejection.

For a STR-connection in the active state, the FACILITY message is also used for the exchange of components over the existing signaling connection. This signaling connection is identified by the call reference value of the corresponding STR-

5 connection. If an STR-connection associated FACILITY message is sent by using a call reference value of an active STR-connection, and this STR-connection is cleared due to STR-connection related causes, then the GK or the intelligent peripheral sends a response within H.450.1 APDU in the first clearing message, i.e., the RELease COMplete message.

10 The GK sends a SETUP message to the intelligent peripheral when the GK requires intelligent peripheral service or the GK application receives a STR message from the SCP. The following script illustrates a valid STR-connection establishment message sequence to the H.323 intelligent peripheral.

H.225.0 Call Signaling With GR-1129-Core Extension Script

15 Setup (GK → IVR)

Timeout T303

Setup (GK → IVR)

Call

Proceeding (IVR → GK)

20 Altering (IVR → GK)

Connect (IVR → GK)

Connect Ack (GK → IVR)

It will be appreciated that if the H.323 intelligent peripheral does not respond within a predefined time limit, e.g. within timeout T303, then a second SETUP message
25 is sent. The only valid response messages sent by the H.323 intelligent peripheral to an incoming SETUP message are:

Finally, those of skill in the art will appreciate that the invented method and apparatus described and illustrated herein may be implemented in software, firmware or hardware, or any suitable combination thereof. Preferably, the method and apparatus are implemented in software, for purposes of low cost and flexibility. Thus, those of skill in the art will appreciate that the method and apparatus of the invention may be implemented by a computer or microprocessor process in which instructions are executed, the instructions being stored for execution on a computer-readable medium and being executed by any suitable instruction processor. Alternative embodiments are contemplated, however, and are within the spirit and scope of the invention.

Having illustrated and described the principles of my invention in a preferred embodiment thereof, it should be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that the invention can be modified in arrangement and detail without departing from such principles. We claim all modifications coming within the spirit and scope of the accompanying claims.

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wherein said invocation mechanism and said performance mechanism comply with International H.323 and H.450 standards.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said invocation mechanism acts under International H.450 standard as a supplemental services provider (SSP) and wherein said performance mechanism acts under International H.450 standard as an intelligent peripheral.

7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said invocation mechanism provides for a call-transfer sequence to which said performance mechanism is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line the number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence.

8. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said invocation mechanism provides for play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which said performance mechanism is responsive.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said invocation mechanism further provides for a call-transfer sequence to which said performance mechanism is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line the number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said invocation mechanism further provides for flex-parameter-block, play-recorded-audio-and-terminate-call, and play-recorded-audio-using-specified-script sequences to which said performance mechanism is responsive, wherein said flex-parameter-block sequence invokes in the performance mechanism a variable response.

11. A method of interfacing a voice frame network gatekeeper and an interactive voice response unit (IVR), the method comprising:

configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under International H.450 standard;

configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International H.450 standard;

first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the IVR over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol; and

second conveying responses to the requests from the IVR to the gatekeeper over

the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said first conveying includes invoking a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the IVR is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line the number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said first conveying includes invoking play-recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which the IVR is responsive.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said first conveying includes invoking flex-parameter-block, play-recorded-audio-and-terminate-call, and play-recorded-audio-using-specified-script sequences to which the IVR is responsive, wherein said flex-parameter-block sequence invokes in the IVR a variable response.

15. A computer-readable medium containing a program for interfacing a voice frame network gatekeeper and an interactive voice response unit (IVR), the program comprising:

instructions for configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP) under International H.450 standard;

instructions for configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International H.450 standard;

instructions for first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the IVR over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol; and

instructions for second conveying responses to requests from the IVR to the gatekeeper over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol.

16. The computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 15, wherein said instructions for first conveying include instructions for invoking a call-transfer request/response sequence to which the IVR is responsive to route a given call to a different telephone line number of which is provided in conjunction with the call-transfer request/response sequence.

17. The computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 16, wherein
said instructions for first conveying further include instructions for invoking play-
recorded-audio and play-recorded-audio-and-await-digital-input sequences to which the
5 IVR is responsive.

18. The computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 17, wherein
said instructions for first conveying further include instructions for invoking flex-
parameter-bloc, play-recorded-audio-and-terminate-call, and play-recorded-audio-using-
10 specified script sequences to which the IVR is responsive, wherein said flex-parameter-
block sequence invokes in the IVR a variable response.

19. Apparatus for interfacing a voice frame network gatekeeper and an
interactive voice response unit (IVR), the program comprising:

15 means for configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP)
under International H.450 standard;

means for configuring the IVR as an intelligent peripheral under International
H.450 standard;

20 means for first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the IVR over the voice
frame network in accordance with a defined protocol, said first conveying means
including software instructions resident on a computer-readable medium and executable
by a processor within the gatekeeper; and

25 means for second conveying responses to requests from the IVR to the
gatekeeper over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol, said
second conveying means including software instructions resident on a computer-
readable medium and executable by a processor within the IVR.

**VOICE FRAME NETWORK GATEKEEPER-TO-INTELLIGENT
PERIPHERAL INTERFACE METHOD AND APPARATUS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Telecommunications apparatus between a voice frame network gatekeeper and
intelligent peripheral such as an interactive voice response unit (IVR) is described. The
apparatus includes a voice frame network connection for coupling a gatekeeper to an
intelligent peripheral; a protocol over the connection that provides supplemental
services messaging between the gatekeeper and the intelligent peripheral, the protocol
10 conveying a request from the gatekeeper to the intelligent peripheral and a response
from the intelligent peripheral to the gatekeeper; and a command structure embedded in
such request/response protocol, the command structure including a call-transfer
request/response sequence to which the gatekeeper is responsive. The interfacing
method includes configuring the gatekeeper as a supplemental services provider (SSP)
15 under International H.450 standard; configuring an IVR as an intelligent peripheral
under International H.450 standard; first conveying requests from the gatekeeper to the
IVR over the voice frame network in accordance with a defined protocol; and second
conveying responses to the requests from the IVR to the gatekeeper over the voice
frame network in accordance with a defined protocol. The first conveying invokes a
20 call-transfer request/response sequence to which the IVR is responsive to route a given
call to a different telephone line, the number of which is provided in conjunction with
the call-transfer request/response sequence. Preferably, the protocol and the command
structure comply with International H.323 and H.450 standards.

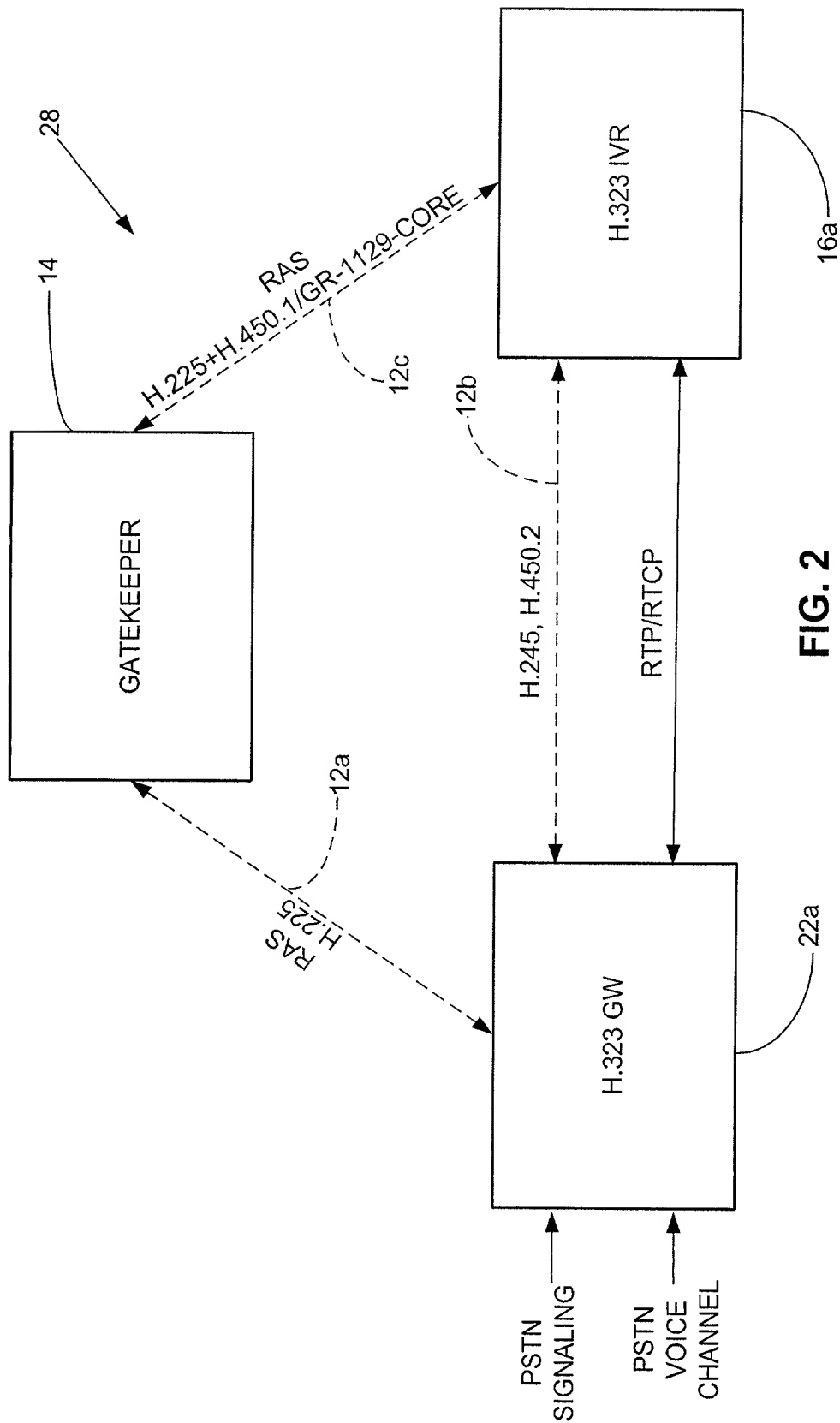


FIG. 2


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graph TD; 100[CONFIGURE GATEKEEPER AS AN SSP UNDER H.323 AND H.450.x] --> 102[CONFIGURE IVR AS AN INTELLIGENT PERIPHERAL UNDER H.323 AND H.450.x]; 102 --> 104[CONVEY REQUESTS FROM GATEKEEPER TO IVR OVER VOICE FRAME NETWORK (INVOKE)]; 104 --> 106[CONVEY RESPONSES FROM IVR TO GATEKEEPER OVER VOICE FRAME NETWORK (PERFORM)];
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100

CONFIGURE GATEKEEPER AS AN SSP UNDER H.323 AND H.450.x

102

CONFIGURE IVR AS AN INTELLIGENT PERIPHERAL UNDER H.323 AND H.450.x

104

CONVEY REQUESTS FROM GATEKEEPER TO IVR OVER VOICE FRAME NETWORK (INVOKE)

106

CONVEY RESPONSES FROM IVR TO GATEKEEPER OVER VOICE FRAME NETWORK (PERFORM)

FIG. 4

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled VOICE FRAME NETWORK GATEKEEPER-TO-INTERFACE PERIPHERAL INTERFACE METHOD AND APPARATUS, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 119 (a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Claiming
Priority?

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐ ☐
Yes No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 119(e) of any United States provisional application listed below:

Provisional Application No.

Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 120 or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56 which

occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application No.) (Filing Date) (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute the application, to file a corresponding international application, to prosecute and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Customer No. 20575

<u>Attorney Name</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>
Jerome S. Marger	26,480
Alexander C. Johnson, Jr.	29,396
Alan T. McCollom	28,881
James G. Stewart	32,496
Glenn C. Brown	34,555
Stephen S. Ford	35,139
Gregory T. Kavounas	37,862
Scott A. Schaffer	38,610
Joseph S. Makuch	39,286
James E. Harris	40,013
Graciela G. Cowger	42,444
Ariel Rogson	43,054
Craig R. Rogers	43,888

Direct all telephone calls to James G. Stewart at (503) 222-3613 and send all correspondence to:

MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM, P.C.
1030 SW Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97205

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor's signature: M. J. J.

Post Office address: 6181 Sierra Bravo Rd., Irvine, California 92612

Inventor's signature: Gordon T. Johnson

Post Office address: 26 Saucito, Foothills Ranch, California 92610